

in the texture buffer and data relating to the dimensional type of that texture packet's associated texture map.

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action of October 23, 2002. In the present Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 4-22, and 24-38 are now pending in the present application. Applicant hereby requests entry of this Amendment and Response and further examination of the present application in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

In the Office Action mailed on October 23, 2002, claims 1, 4-13, 15-19, 21-22, 24-25, and 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lentz (U.S. Pat. No. 5,886,705) in view of Tanaka, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,793,376), and further in view of Saunders et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,046,747), and claims 14, 20, and 26-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lentz and Tanaka et al., in view of Saunders et al., and further in view of Chimoto (U.S. Pat. No. 5,550,961). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection and requests reconsideration thereof.

Claim 1

The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lentz in view of Tanaka et al. and Saunders et al. Applicant submits that claim 1, as amended, is not rendered obvious by Lentz in view of Tanaka and Saunders. Amended Claim 1 includes the limitation of having a plurality of texture processors for performing texturing operations on graphical images, wherein the plurality of texture processors process texture packets stored in a single texture buffer. This limitation is supported by the specification (page 6, lines 16-20) and is not disclosed by Lentz or Tanaka or Saunders, or a combination thereof. In order to form a valid rejection, the suggested combination must disclose all elements of the rejected claims. MPEP §706.02(j). Therefore, this ground of rejection cannot stand because it does not disclose at least the element of multiple texture processors operating with a single texture buffer.

Applicant further asserts that, even without the amendment introduced in the present response, claim 1 is patentable because the Office Action failed to show any motivation for combining the cited references. The Court of Appeals Federal Circuit (CAFC) has stated

“when a rejection depends on a combination of prior art references, there must be some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combine the references.” *In re Dennis Rouffet*, 149 F. 3d 1350, 1355 (Fed. Cir. 1998). CAFC has also stated that “as in all determinations under 35 U.S.C. §103, [...] it is impermissible, however, simply to engage in a hindsight reconstruction of the claimed invention, using the applicant’s structure as a template and selecting elements from references to fill the gaps.” *In re Gorman*, 933 F. 2d 982 (Fed. Cir. 1991). The Office Action fails to show a motivation to combine Lentz, Tanaka et al., and Saunders et al., and the present invention cannot be used as a template for selecting elements from different references.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the Office Action failed to clearly indicate the motivation for combining three references to accomplish the teaching of the present invention without improperly using the present application as a template for doing so. In view of the suggested combination lacking all claimed elements, and a failure to provide motivation to combine the references, Claim 1, as amended, cannot be rejected as obvious in view thereof and such ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-8

Claims 4-8 depend from claim 1, and Applicant asserts that claims 4-8 are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons asserted with respect to Claim 1.

Claim 9

The Office Action rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lentz and Tanaka in view of Saunders. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Office Action failed to show any motivation for combining the cited references, as argued above with respect to Claim 1. It is improper to use the present application as the motivation to combine Lentz, Tanaka et al., and Saunders et al., and without such guidance, there has not been shown any other impetus to select elements from these different references.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that this rejection has been overcome and requests that Claim 9 be allowed.

Claims 10-14

Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9, and Applicant asserts that claims 10-14 are allowable over the cited references for the same reasons asserted with respect to Claim 9.

Claims 15-20

Independent Claim 15, and dependent Claims 16-19 cannot be rejected as obvious in view of Lentz, Tanaka, and Saunder for the same reasons stated above supporting patentability of Claims 9-14.

Claims 21-22

The Office Action rejected Claims 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lentz and Tanaka in view of Saunders. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Again, Applicant submits that no motivation to combine the references has been shown in Lentz, Tanaka, or Saunders. The Office Action stated that the motivation for combining the teaching of Lentz and Saunders is to provide efficient way to perform texture mapping process with faster time. However, such suggestion uses hindsight based on the present invention to defeat patentability of the same invention, which is improper as argued above with respect to Claims 1 and 9. This ground of rejection therefore cannot stand due to the lack of motivation to combine the references, and therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that for the above reasons, Claim 21 and its dependent claim 22 are allowable over cited references.

Claims 24-25

Claims 24-25 depend from claim 21, and Applicant asserts that claims 24-25 are allowable over the cited references for the same reasons asserted with respect to Claim 21.

Claim 26

The Office Action rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lentz and Tanaka et al. and further in view of Saunders et al and Chimoto (U.S. Pat. No. 5,550,961). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Again, Applicant asserts that the Office Action fails to particularly point out the motivation in Lentz, Tanaka, Chelstowki, or Chimoto to combine these *four* teachings. The

Office Action's approach improperly uses hindsight based on the present invention to defeat patentability of the same invention. As explained above, without explicit motivation to combine these four teachings, Claim 26 cannot be rejected as obvious in view thereof.

Claims 27-28

Claims 27-28 depends from Claim 26, and Applicant asserts that Claims 27-28 cannot be rejected for the same reasons asserted with respect to the patentability of Claim 26.

Claims 29-31

Claims 29-31 are patentable for the same reasons stated above regarding Claims 26-28.

Claims 32-34

Claims 32-34 are patentable for the same reasons stated above regarding Claims 26-28.

Claim 35

The Office Action rejected claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lentz in view of Tanaka et al., and further in view of Saunders et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As explained above, no suggestion has been shown for combining the cited references in either Lentz or Saunders. The Office Action's approach improperly uses hindsight based on the present invention to defeat patentability of the same invention. As explained above, without explicit motivation to combine these two teachings, claim 35 cannot be rejected as obvious in view thereof.

Claims 36-38

Claims 36-38 depend from claim 35, and Applicant asserts that claims 36-38 are allowable over the cited references for the same reasons asserted above with respect to Claim 35.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 4-22, and 24-38 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is

earnestly requested. If necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (404-873-8734) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

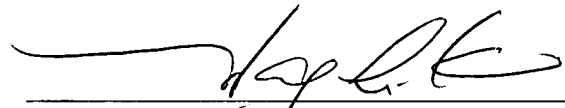
No additional fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including any necessary extensions of time, which are hereby requested, to Deposit Account No. 501403.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwards.

By his Representatives,

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Date 2/6/03

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 6th day of Feb, 2003.

Lucille Golden-Blakey Lucille Golden-Blakey
Name Signature

I claim:

1. (Thrice amended) A graphics accelerator for processing a graphical image, the graphics accelerator comprising:
a texture buffer for storing texture maps and data relating to the texture maps stored in the texture buffer; and
a plurality of texture processors that perform texturing operations on the graphical image,
each texture processor including a fetching engine that retrieves texture packets, each texture packet being stored in the texture buffer and being associated with a texture map that is different than the texture maps associated with any other texture packet in the texture buffer, each texture packet including data relating to the location of its associated texture map in the texture buffer and data relating to the dimensional type of that texture packet's associated texture map.

2. (Deleted)

3. (Deleted)

4. (Amended) The graphics accelerator as defined by claim 1 wherein the dimensional type of each texture map is one of a one dimensional texture map, a two dimensional texture map, and a three dimensional texture map.

5. The graphics accelerator as defined by claim 1 wherein the texture processor further includes:

an input for receiving a texture message indicating that a texture map is to be utilized by the texture processor, the fetching engine responsively retrieving selected texture packets from the